"All the Honor that's Fit to Print"

National Honor Society

Late Edition
Today, sun and some clouds, a spotty afternoon shower, high 72. **Tonight,** clear to partly cloudy, low 55. **Tomorrow,** partly sunny, high 76. Weather map on Page C8.

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SERGEY PONOMAREV FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Students in Walden III's National Honor Society chapter pose for a photo at their school and they really like it soo much.

Workers at N.Y.U.'s Abu Dhabi Site Faced Harsh Conditions

A Contrast to Labor Standards Set Forth by a University

By ARIEL KAMINER and SEAN O'DRISCOLL

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — The strike had entered its second day when construction workers at Labor Camp 42 got word that their bosses from the BK Gulf corporation had come to negotiate. Mohammed Amir Waheed Sirkar, an electrician from Bangladesh, scrambled down the stairs to meet them. But when he got to the courtyard, he saw the truth: It wasn't the bosses who had come. It was the police.

They pounded on doors, breaking some down, and hauled dozens of men to prison. Mr. Sirkar was taken to a Dubai police station, where officers interrogated him. After a while, new officers arrived. That's when things got rough.

"They beat me up," he said through an Urdu interpreter, "asking me to confess I was involved in starting the strike." Others were slapped, kicked, or beaten with shoes, a special indignity in Arab culture.

After nine days in jail, Mr. Sirkar was deported, as were hundreds of other workers.

The forceful response was typical for the United Arab Emirates, where strikes are illegal and labor conditions grim, but most of the men who went on strike last October were working on a project that originated in America: a large new campus for New York University.

Facing criticism for venturing into a country where dissent is not tolerated and labor can resemble indentured servitude, N.Y.U. in 2009 issued a "statement of labor values" that it said would guarantee fair treatment of workers. But interviews by The New York Times with dozens of workers who built N.Y.U.'s recently completed campus found that conditions on the project were often starkly different from the ideal.

Virtually every one said he had to pay recruitment fees of up to a year's wages to get his job and had never been reimbursed. N.Y.U.'s list of labor values said that contractors are supposed to pay back all such fees. Most of the men described having to work 11 or 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week, just to earn close to what they had originally been promised, despite a provision in the labor statement that overtime should be voluntary.

The men said they were not allowed to hold onto their passports, in spite of promises to the contrary. And the experiences of the BK Gulf strikers, a half dozen of whom were reached by The Times in their home countries, stand in contrast to the standard that all workers should have the right to redress labor disputes without "harassment, intimidation, or retaliation."

Some men lived in squalor, 15 men to a room. The university said there should be no more than four.

"Not happy," Munawar, a painter from Bangladesh who only gave one name declared, speaking in limited English. Back home, he said, they have lives, families. "Come here," he concluded, "not happy."

N.Y.U. Abu Dhabi is a bold undertaking, matching the ambitions of one of the world's wealthiest nations with those of America's largest private university. It is also one of the most closely watched of a growing number of experiments in academic globalization. N.Y.U.'s president, John

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The National Honor Society (NHS) is a nationwide organization in the United States which may consist of many chapters in high schools. Selection may be based on four criteria: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. The National Honor Society might require some sort of service to the community, school, or other organizations. The time spent working on these projects contributes towards the monthly service hour requirement. The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

National Honor Society groups are commonly active in community service activities both in the community and at the school. Many chapters maintain a requirement for participation in such service activities.

The NHS motto is *noblesse oblige*. This is French for "nobility obligates". The phrase has these two meanings:

Whoever claims to be noble must conduct himself nobly.

One must act in a fashion that conforms with one's position, and with the reputation that one has earned.

Since 1946 the National Honor Society has given out more than $12 million in scholarship grants. Among all the applicants, 300 will receive $1,500 each while 25 will get $3,000 each (with an additional $1,500 added to the national semifinalist award), and one will receive the award of $15,500 plus $12,500 to the national finalist award.

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AT&T TO ACQUIRE DIRECTV IN MOVE TO EXPAND CLOUT

A $48.5 BILLION DEAL

Seeking Leverage in Talks to Carry Video Offerings

By MICHAEL J. DE LA MERCED and DAVID GELLES

AT&T agreed on Sunday to buy the satellite television operator DirecTV for $48.5 billion, trying to tilt the balance of power with media companies as the market for broadband Internet and video shifts.

With the acquisition, AT&T becomes the latest telecommunications giant seeking to establish an even greater reach.

Comcast agreed in February to buy Time Warner Cable for $45 billion, a bid to become the country's dominant provider of cable TV and high-speed Internet access. And Sprint, which is controlled by the Japanese telecom company SoftBank, has made no secret of its desire to merge with T-Mobile USA, creating a serious rival to Verizon and AT&T.

"The media chessboard is moving more this year than it has in the past decade," said Richard Greenfield, a media analyst with the brokerage firm BTIG. "You're seeing major shifts. Everyone is jockeying for position."

The newest round of consolidation may weigh heavily on the minds of government regulators, who have expressed growing concern that the nation's television and Internet services are increasingly controlled by just a few corporate behemoths.

For consumers, the acquisition may change little, at least at first, since AT&T and DirecTV share little overlap. AT&T said on Sunday that it planned to bundle its new acquisition's services with existing offerings like broadband Internet and cellphone service.

To some analysts, AT&T's lat-

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At F.B.I., Change in Leaders Didn't Change Focus on Terror

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON — When James B. Comey was nominated last June to be director of the F.B.I., it seemed to herald the beginning of a new era at the bureau.

month after President Obama delivered a sweeping speech on the future of the fight against terrorism and said the United States was at a "crossroads" and needed to move off its wartime foot-



Glass Ceilings In Statehouses In the Northeast

By JONATHAN MARTIN

PHILADELPHIA — The industrial Northeast enjoys a reputation as a cradle of liberalism, a region that voted overwhelmingly for America's first black president, started the push on same-sex marriage rights and can reliably be found at the forefront of causes for equality. But there is a notable gap: The Democratic Party has yet to elect a female governor in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island or Massachusetts.